**Title:** Requests the Hon'ble Minister to make a statement on the decision of the Union Cabinet on packing urea and cement in jute bags.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (BARRACKPORE): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Compulsory Jute Packaging Order has been upheld by the Supreme Court. Now, even after this Order has been upheld by the Supreme Court, the Cabinet has decided not to pack urea and cement in jute bags. This will not only destroy the jute industry, but it will also affect the ecological balance. In Europe, now-a-days it is punitive on the part of any entrepreneur to pack anything which cannot be recycled and biodegradable. The packaging by polluting agents is an offence in the European and American societies. This is a very serious matter. We demand that the Prime Minister should respond to this matter now. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. The Minister will reply now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, you are a senior Member. The Minister wants to reply. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister is already on his legs. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (BANKURA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, thousands of workers of the jute industry are suffering now. The jute industry in West Bengal is facing a lot of problems by the decision of the Union Cabinet not to pack urea and cement in jute bags. This is a very important matter. The Prime Minister is present here. We are raising this matter due to the decision of the Government. The Prime Minister should respond to this matter. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this decision of the Cabinet will destroy the jute industry of West Bengal. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I have already called the Minister. Please understand. You are a senior Member. The Minister is already on his legs. Please take your seat.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious matter and the Prime Minister should respond to it. (Interruptions)

यह इंडस्ट्री का सवाल नहीं है, यह दुनिया का सवाल है, देश का सवाल है। इसके ऊपर प्रधान मंत्री विचार करें।

... (व्यवधान)

यह पर्यावरण का भी सवाल है। ... (व्यवधान)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

प्रधान मंत्री (श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी): अध्यक्ष महोदय, पश्चिम बंगाल के मित्र जो मामला उठा रहे हैं, मैं उनके बारे में सारे तथ्य इकट्ठे करूंगा और उनसे बातचीत करूंगा। कोई ऐसा काम नहीं होगा जिससे जूट इंडस्ट्री को नुकसान हो। हम उन्हें यह भरोसा दिलाना चाहते हैं

श्री तरित बरण तोपदार : यह पर्यावरण का सवाल है।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : बहुत से सवाल हैं, मगर सदन में शांति बनाए रखने का भी सवाल है।

... (व्यवधान)/द्र